

and deflect any and all rumors that individuals in the administration may have been involved at any level in the prison abuse scandal.

Mr. Speaker, there must be a better way, because the current method of hiding prisoners from humanitarian agencies and using vicious attack dogs to help conduct so-called prisoner interrogations is further hindering the war on terror and encouraging anti-American sentiment around the world. That is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 3792, a SMART security platform for the 21st century. My SMART plan will keep America safe.

SMART stands for sensible multi-lateral American response to terrorism. SMART means interrogation, not torture. It encourages open government, not a secretive government that fails to investigate and covers its own back. SMART security encourages negotiations and leadership, not aggression and unilateralism. SMART invests in developmental and humanitarian aid for the most impoverished nations, not an expensive and unproven missile defense system and certainly not the inhumane treatment of prisoners.

The situation in Iraq requires the best America has to offer. SMART security, accordingly, relies on the very best of America, our commitment to peace and freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for multi-lateral leadership. SMART security treats war as a last resort to be considered only after every diplomatic alternative has been exhausted, and it controls the widespread use of weapons of mass destruction with a renewed commitment of non-proliferation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH FOR OUR CHURCHES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have been on the floor for the last 3 or 4 years from time to time to talk about the need, the importance

of having our spiritual leaders in America to have freedom of speech, to speak on a Sunday or Saturday and talk about the moral and political issues of the day. This year has probably been one of the worst I have seen as far as the attack on people of faith in this great Nation.

Let me read from the St. Petersburg Times, an article from today. It says, "As the political influence of churches grows, opponents are wielding the Tax Code as a weapon against them."

State Representative Arthenia Joyner, a Tampa Democrat who is African American, she says, "It could have a chilling effect. I see it as a way to try to intimidate people, but I think it's not going to work."

I would say to Representative Joyner she is exactly right. That is why I hope that she and many other people, both here in the Congress as well as other State representatives, will get behind this effort to return the freedom of speech to our churches and synagogues.

A lot of people do not know the history, but prior to 1954 any speech or sermon by a minister, priest or rabbi in this great Nation was protected by the first amendment rights.

In 1954 Lyndon Baines Johnson's amendment on a revenue bill going through the Senate basically stifled our churches because our churches are 501(c)(3)s. Well, it seemed like not really much of a law that was enforced until the early 1970s and mid-1980s, when the moral majority got involved in campaigns. When I say got involved in campaigns, I meant speaking out about the moral issues of the day and saying to their congregation who stands for protecting morality. But what has happened even this year in the last 3 months? First of all a Catholic bishop, Bishop Sheridan in Colorado Springs wrote a pastoral letter to 125,000 Catholics. He said nothing about President Bush or Senator KERRY. He did use the word "pro-life."

You might say, well, what is wrong with that? That is what the Catholic church stands for. That is what many churches stand for and also synagogues. Well, the problem is that the Internal Revenue Service has said because of the Johnson amendment there are certain code words that cannot be used. Because Bishop Sheridan used the word "pro-life" in his pastoral letter, Barry Lynn with the American Center for the Separation of Church and State filed a complaint. In addition to that, he has filed a complaint against a Reverend Ronnie Floyd, a Baptist minister in Arkansas. He is now with a group of 100 volunteers monitoring churches in Kansas each Sunday to see what the minister might be saying about morality and might be saying about how we can protect the Judeo-Christian principles of America.

I want to say to Representative Joyner that she is exactly right. The great movements of this country, such as Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement never would have

happened if it had not been for the churches. The churches do have a role in this Nation and our synagogues, and that is to ensure and to help protect morality.

So I am hoping this year that maybe the House will look seriously at this legislation that has been introduced. We have 164 co-sponsors. It is time to protect the moral future of America, and the way that is going to happen is with our spiritual leaders of America being free with the first amendment rights that are guaranteed by the men and women serving this great Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say again that a nation built on Judeo-Christian principles, if it is going to survive, then we have got to be able to have our spiritual leaders speaking freely with the first amendment rights.

With that I would like to make one close and then I will finish. I first ask that the good Lord bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and I do ask the good Lord to please bless America. America is in trouble and we need the blessings of our Lord and Savior.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

SHAMEFUL MEDICARE INCREASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush said about a year ago he would veto any Medicare bill that cost taxpayers more than \$400 billion. The President then signed a bill that cost \$551 billion. His Medicare Administrator, who had lied to Congress, who had not shared any of this information as they continued to say it was \$400 billion to people on both sides of the aisle, his Medicare Administrator knew the true bill's cost long before the President signed it, and you have got to think that the President knew what the bill cost since the Medicare Administrator works for the President, that the President knew what the bill cost before he picked up his pen and signed that legislation late last year.